

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 17, and 23. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A modularized system for reading from and/or writing to optical media, the system comprising:

- a playing device configured to engage with two or more modular components;
- a first modular component configured to be slidably received by the playing device, the first modular component including a housing and an optical reading and/or writing device ~~at least partially disposed~~ removably received within the housing, the reading and/or writing device being operably coupled with the playing device when the first modular component is engaged with the playing device; and
- a second modular component configured to be slidably received by the playing device, the second modular component having a memory that stores an encoding and/or decoding program operable by the playing device to write to and/or read from optical media at the first modular component.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the optical reading and/or writing device includes a CD and/or DVD drive.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the second modular component includes an MPEG encoder and/or decoder.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the playing device outputs one or more signals decoded by the second modular component, the one or more signals being readable by an audio and/or video device operably coupled with the playing device.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first modular component engages with the playing device at a top side of the playing device.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a third modular component configured to engage with the first modular component in a stacked arrangement, wherein the third modular component is operably coupled with the playing device when stacked upon the first modular component.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via an IEEE 1394 based communication link.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via a universal serial bus (USB) link.

17. (Currently Amended) A modularized device for reading from and/or writing to optical media, the device comprising:

a first modular component including a housing means and means for optically reading from and/or writing to optical media, the means for optically reading and/or writing being ~~at least partially disposed~~ removably received within the housing means;

a second modular component including means for storing an encoding and/or decoding program; and

- a playing unit configured to slidably receive the first and second modular components, the playing unit operably coupling the means for optically reading and/or writing with the means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program when engaged with the first and second modular components.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the first and second modular components are configured to read from and/or write to the optical media in a data format that includes at least one of CD-ROM, CD-RW, DVD-ROM, DVD-RW, DVD-Audio, and SACD.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the means for optically reading and/or writing comprises a first means for optically reading and/or writing, and wherein the device further comprises a third modular component including a second means for optically reading and/or writing operably coupled with the means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program when the playing unit is engaged with the second and third modular components.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program comprises a first means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program, and wherein the device further comprises a third modular component including a second means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program operably coupled with the means for optically reading and/or writing when the playing unit is engaged with the first and third modular components.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via an 802.11 wireless communication link.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via an IDE or SCSI link.

23. (Currently Amended) A media player, comprising:

a playing device;

a housing configured to be slidably installed with and uninstalled from the playing device;

a data read/write device configured to be ~~slidably installed with and uninstalled from the playing device~~removably received in the housing, wherein the data read/write device is operably coupled with the playing device when the ~~data read/write device housing~~ is engaged with the playing device; and  
an encoding/decoding device configured to be slidably installed with and uninstalled from the playing device, wherein the encoding/decoding device includes a memory storing an encoding and/or decoding program that enables the playing device to play data accessed by the data read/write device.

24. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the data read/write device includes a DVD drive and/or CD drive configured to read from and/or write to optical media.

25. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the data read/write device includes a hard disk drive having media data stored thereon.

26. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the encoding/decoding device is a first encoding/decoding device having a first encoding and/or decoding program that enables the playing device to play first data accessed by the data read/write device, and wherein the media player further comprises:

a second encoding/decoding device configured to be slidably received by the playing device after uninstalling the first encoding/decoding device, the second encoding/decoding device including a memory storing a second encoding and/or decoding program that enables the playing device to play second data accessed by the data read/write device, wherein the second data is different than the first data.

27. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the data read/write device and encoding/decoding device are configured to read from and/or write to optical media in a data format that includes at least one of CD-ROM, CD-RW, DVD-ROM, DVD-RW, DVD-Audio, and SACD.

28. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the encoding/decoding device includes an MPEG encoder and/or decoder.

29. (Previously Presented) The media player of claim 23 wherein the playing device is configured to output one or more signals decoded by the encoding/decoding device, and wherein the one or more signals are readable by an audio and/or video device in communication with the playing device.